GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1596
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2000
LABOUR LAWS
RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to radically amend labour laws in the country, paving the way for the introduction of an exit policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to raise the minimum age of 18 years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) & (b): Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process and amendments/fresh legislations are made depending on the results of the review. A number of labour laws have been framed over a period of time to address a number of issues and problems that assumed importance and attracted pointed attention at a particular point of time. While many of these concerns are of continuing nature, some of them have ceased to be of erstwhile importance and may have been indeed become obsolete and redundant. There is thus always a need to review comprehensively the labour laws so as to ensure both consistency of labour laws with the general changes taking place in the economic policy and also to provide for greater welfare of the workers. The Government have also set up the Second National Commission on 15.10.1999 which would comprehensively review the labour laws and suggest appropriate changes in the labour legislation/policy. The Commission would suggest rationalisation of existing labour laws relating to labour in the organised sector and an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sectors.

(c) & (d): A proposal to enact a Central Legislation fixing minimum age of 14 years for admission to employment and work in all occupations excluding agriculture in family and small holdings producing for own consumption is under examination. The proposal legislation will also fix a minimum age of not less than 18 years for admission to any type of employment and work which by its nature or circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to jeopardize the health, safety or morals of young persons.